

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the first paragraph on page 11 of the specification in the following manner:

(5). **IPC hardware API layer (210)-** provides the needed interface between the hardware ports (212, 214, 216, 218) at the physical layer and the rest of the IPC stack. The hardware API layer also provides any protocol translation between the hardware ports (212, 214, 216, 218) and the IPC stack and OS.